

Stephen Marchant (1957-2003), Dr. Richard Liversidge (1951-55, 1977-2003 – see obituary below), and Captain Sir Thomas Barlow Bt. DSC RN (1951-2003) (**Hon. Life Member**).

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### Obituary – Dr Richard Liversidge 1926-2003

Dr Richard Liversidge was born on 17 September 1926 in Blantyre, Malawi. His early youth was spent in Malawi, India, UK, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya and East London in South Africa. Dr Liversidge's interest in birds began as a schoolboy when he worked at the East London Museum. He changed direction somewhat to register as an engineering student at the University of Cape Town in 1946, but subsequently worked as a technician at the university while majoring in zoology and botany, one subject a year, finally graduating in 1955. His professional life as an ornithologist began with a two-year contract at the Port Elizabeth Museum, and several studies on birds, including one on the Little Sparrowhawk (1962, *Ibis* 104:399-406) and the ecology of the Cape Bulbul for a PhD. In 1964 he was appointed as the first curator of the Tsitsikama National Park, and in June 1966 was appointed to the post of Director of the McGregor Museum in Kimberley, South Africa, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He died on 15 September 2003 in Kimberley, and is survived by his wife, Vivienne, and three children, William, Helen, Stephen and two grandchildren, Karl and Jason.

Although Dr Liversidge was primarily an ornithologist, a large part of his work at the McGregor Museum involved the negotiations, purchase and development of the historical monuments in Kimberley and the Northern Cape Province, and he was involved in research on springbok and other "game" mammals as well as birds. He was probably most widely known in southern Africa for co-authoring, with Dr Geoff McLachlan, the first (1957) and subsequent three revisions of the *Birds of South Africa*, originally published by Austin Roberts in 1940. He was a productive author, and published over 80 scientific papers and 40 articles in various journals on botany, ecology, ornithology, mammals and history, beginning with his first publication on birds as a schoolboy in 1945. Apart from *Roberts Birds of South Africa*, he co-authored books on *Ludwig Krebs, Naturalist to the King of Prussia; Springbok Management; Game Ranch Management* (in English and Afrikaans) and authored *A Rapid Bird Guide* (1978) and *The Birds Around Us* (1990).

In recent years Dr Liversidge focused some of his attention on pipits, and described two new species, *Anthus longicaudatus* (1996, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 116: 211-215) and (together with Gary Voelker) described *Anthus pseudosimilis* in 2002 (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 122: 93-108).

Although birds remained one of his primary interests, and particularly the birds of the Kalahari arid savanna, Dr Liversidge had interests covering a wide range of subjects. He was a founder member of the Historical Society of Kimberley and the Northern Cape and was instrumental in the foundation of the Northern Cape Game Farmers' Association. He was chairman of the Northern Cape Wildlife Society (which became the Northern Cape Region of the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA) for some years, was appointed to the National Monuments Council in 1977, serving on its executive committee from 1987 to 1990, and served on the Council of the Zoological Society of South Africa and the Wild Life Management Association. He was also the last surviving founder member of the Cape Bird Club, the Western Cape branch of BirdLife South Africa.

In 1962 he was elected an honorary Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union and in 1990 to a full Corresponding Member. In 1994 he was elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and in 1996 a Fellow of the SA Museums Association. Other awards were for Game Conservation in the Cape Province (1976), a Merit Award from the Northern Cape Game Ranchers' Association (1990) and the Cape Times Centenary Medal (1990) for outstanding achievements in the conservation of historical buildings.

W. Richard J. Dean

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